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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Juliann A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

American Academy in Rome

Professor C. U. Clark, in response to an invitation from the *Classical Journal*, writes as follows:

"You ask for some account of war-time conditions in the Roman School. I should say that our life here, up to the present, has been very little different from normal; our entry into the war may of course change all that before this reaches you and deprive us of a number of the students now with us. This past season we have had courses in the Roman forum from Director Carter, of the Academy; in Roman history from Professor Tenny Frank, of Bryn Mawr, the annual professor; Professor Marucchi, on the catacombs; Professor Venturi, on precursors of Raphael; Mr. Lothrop, on Giotto and other early Florentine painters; I have given courses in Latin paleography and epigraphy; Professor Van Buren has conducted a number of trips to points of interest around Rome, like the Alban Mount, Cervetri, Corneto, etc.; Mr. Curtis has given several museum talks, especially on Etruscan antiquities; and Mr. Lothrop has shown us the art memorials in many important churches and galleries here and in other Italian cities. A tour to Pompeii, Naples, Amalfi, Pozzuoli, Cumae, etc., directed by Professor Van Buren and Mr. Lothrop and extended by a number of the students to include Sicily, has taken the place of the trip to Greece, which we expect to reintroduce after the war; and there will shortly be a trip to various towns, interesting from their artistic treasures, in Umbria and Tuscany. The government gives us every facility, and the war regulations cause little annoyance; and what food restrictions there are really amount to the enforcement of a much more healthy regimen than most of us give ourselves. Good board and room cost about eight francs a day on the average; and that amounts, at present exchange, to just a little over a dollar. Most of the great libraries and collections are open as usual; so is the University, and several of our number have been attending courses there; the French

School, with its admirable library, welcomes our students for researches which carry them farther afield than they can go with our smaller library. We have now been long enough in the superb new building of the Academy, high up above the Spanish Academy and the fountain of the Acqua Paola, to become a little used to it, and have survived the heating difficulties of the winter with fewer colds than usual. On account of the remoteness of the Academy building, half a mile from, and 250 feet above, the nearest trolley line, we have arranged that all men or women working here, whether regular boarders at the Academy or not, may get a light lunch here, so as to be able to put in the whole day without having to go down into the city and back. The thirty men and women who are at work in the Art School and the Classical School are exceedingly busy and seem to me to be doing valuable as well as useful work. I hesitate to speak of next year's plans; but the prospectus and the latest information may be obtained by anyone from the Academy's secretary, Mr. C. Grant LaFarge, 101 Park Avenue, New York City. We expect to inaugurate a summer session just as soon as circumstances will permit; and I want to urge all teachers of the classics, of history, and of Romance languages, as well as those interested in art, who cannot spend a full year abroad, to bear that possibility in mind."

Arkansas

The Foreign Language Section of the Arkansas State Teachers' Association met Thursday afternoon, March 29, in the high school at Little Rock, with Professor Harry H. Strauss, of the University of Arkansas, in the chair and Miss Fannie A. Baker, of the Fort Smith High School, as secretary. The program was as follows: "The Value of the Classics to Students of English," Professor V. L. Jones, head of the department of English, University of Arkansas; "The Participation of the Student in the Study of Beginning Language," Professor J. G. Cubage, State Normal School. Discussion: "With Reference to Modern Languages," Miss Beatrice O'Neal, Galloway College; "With Reference to Latin," Miss Emma Riley, Jonesboro; "The Value of German Clubs in High Schools," Miss Lyla Moore, Russellville. Discussion led by Ralph Hunt, Stuttgart: "What Shall We Aim to Cultivate in Our Pupils, Appreciation, Reading Power, or Thinking Power?" D. P. Holmes, Ashdown. Discussion was opened by Miss Mildred Moss, Prescott: "How Much Foreign Language Work Should the High Schools Attempt to Do?" Professor L. E. Winfrey, Hendrix College.

This was in many respects by far the best session in the nine years' existence of this organization of foreign-language teachers. The attendance was larger, the interest greater, and the discussions livelier than ever before. Recent tendencies toward a pseudo-utilitarian education have served to unite teachers of the ancient and modern languages in a common cause. Professor Jones's keen satire on the "Modern School" raised many a smile and much applause.

California

Los Angeles.—The spring meeting of the Classical Association of the Pacific States, Southern Section, was held in the Los Angeles High School, Saturday, April 14, at 9:30 A.M. The following was the program: "Visual Aids in the Teaching of Latin," Mr. J. E. Donaldson, Fullerton High School; "What's the Use?" Mr. Edgar W. Camp, attorney for the Sante Fe, Pacific Coast Line; "The Place of Latin in the Curriculum," Dr. W. H. Snyder, principal, Hollywood High School; two choruses from Miller's *Dido, the Phoenician Queen*—"Arma Virumque" and "Hymn to the Dawn"—by the Girls' Latin Chorus, Hollywood High School; "'Know Thyself' in Greek and Latin Literature," Dr. Eliza G. Wilkins, University of Southern California.

The following officers were elected for 1917-18: Dr. W. A. Edwards, Los Angeles High School, president; Miss Gertrude Willows, Claremont, vice-president; Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, secretary-treasurer; Miss Mabel Woodbury, Redlands, and Mr. T. B. Glass, San Fernando, members of the executive committee. Mr. J. E. Donaldson, of Fullerton, was elected first vice-president of the general Association.

Illinois

The University of Chicago.—On the night of April 28 the Undergraduate Classical Club of the University of Chicago gave a very successful presentation of Miller's *Dido, the Phoenician Queen*. The play was given before a large and appreciative audience which contained generous delegations from classical teachers and students of schools in Chicago and neighboring towns. These are the schools which make up the more immediate University family and may be counted upon to back any University enterprise.

This was the first attempt of the Undergraduate Classical Club to present a play before the public, and all agree that it was an unqualified success. The title rôle was taken by Miss Frances Langworthy, Aeneas by Mr. William Van Vliet, Venus by Miss Helen Flack, Anna by Miss Agnes Kelley. The presentation was under the management of Miss Angela Tyler and was directed by Professor Miller.

In connection with its annual conference with its co-operating schools, the University of Chicago offered a series of prize-scholarship examinations, in which 239 students from the Senior classes of these schools participated. Nineteen schools in Chicago and twenty-eight outside of the city sent representatives. Each student took a principal examination, representing three or more units of study in the subject, and a secondary examination, representing two units. The prize winners among the contestants in Latin were as follows: Stanley Ecker, Hyde Park High School, Latin and German; Edward Wilcox, Oak Park and River Forest High School, Latin and French; Ethel Robinson, Hyde Park High School, Latin and Mathematics; Lovilla Butler, Hyde Park High School, Latin and French; Arthur Schuh, Lake View High

School, German and Latin; Pauline Hahn, Oak Park and River Forest High School, German and Latin.

Honorable mention in Latin as one of the two subjects was awarded to the following students:

Charles Price, Senn High School; David McLenegan, West Division (Milwaukee) High School; George Caldwell, Senn High School; Hugh McKinnon, Senn High School; Sadie Lindenbaum, Parker High School; Charles Bartlett, Hyde Park High School; Margaret Turner, Parker High School.

The Chicago Classical Club held its final luncheon of the scholastic year on May 12 at the Great Northern Hotel. Professor Carl Darling Buck, of the University of Chicago, and Superintendent John D. Shoop, of Chicago, were the guests of honor.

Professor Buck addressed the club on "The Balkan Languages and States in History."

Indiana

Indiana University.—The Latin department of the state university has organized a Latin Round Table as a feature of the work of the summer session. Its purpose will be twofold: to enable those participating to become better acquainted, and to discuss three or four subjects which are now affording a great deal of discussion. In this sense it is to resemble somewhat the departmental clubs. Some of the subjects which will be discussed are exhibits for the purpose of showing the value of language, especially Latin, in the schools; Latin plays; use of the direct method in teaching Latin; and the organization of Latin clubs in high schools.

Iowa

Sioux City.—The pupils of the Latin department of the Sioux City High School on March 2 presented Professor Schlicher's play, *Cicero Candidatus*, before the department and many friends. The play was so successful that at the request of the principal it was repeated before the entire school in general assembly on March 22.

Following is the program of the Latin Round Table of the Northwestern Iowa Teachers' Association March 23: "The Practical Value of a Knowledge of Classical Archaeology to the Latin Teacher," Carrie Brown, Sioux City; "Latin as a Vocational Subject," Eva F. Stahl, Fort Dodge; "A Proposed Plan for Teaching Derivatives," Mae Gilfillan, Sioux City; "The New Spirit in Latin Teaching," Professor J. H. Howard, University of South Dakota.

Mississippi

The Industrial Institute and College.—The Classical Club of the Industrial Institute and College, Columbus, Mississippi, presented an elaborate program during the convention of the State Teachers' Association, which was held in

that city the first week of May. On Wednesday evening Professor Alexander Bondurant, of the University of Mississippi, delivered a lecture on the excavations at Pompeii, which gave a very vivid impression of the life of an ancient Roman city.

On Friday afternoon the Classical Club presented on the college campus a masque dealing with the myth of Ceres and Proserpine and including breezy dialogue, pageantry, sylvan scenes, and a chorus with appropriate dancing and orchestral music. Miss Miriam Greene Paslay, head of the College Latin department, arranged the masque in strict historic fashion, based upon the type of outdoor mythological entertainment popular in the days of Ben Jonson and Shakespeare.

Oklahoma

Lawton.—A Latin club (the Aeneades, Latina Sodalitas) which has been organized during the present school year in connection with the Latin department of the Lawton (Oklahoma) High School, has proved very successful in stimulating interest in classical learning among the students. It is the only Latin club in this part of Oklahoma, and even outside the school many have become interested in it.

All members of the classical course are eligible to membership, and Latin instructors in near-by towns and other persons interested in classical learning are added to the membership as honorary members.

All members may wear the club pin, which is the silver eagle of Caesar's Tenth legion. The club colors are purple, white, and gold; the club song, "Guadeamus Igitur"; the club motto, "Usquad vale, quid agis age," and the *Classical Journal* is the club's adopted periodical.

The Aeneades have held several interesting entertainments at which both regular and honorary members appear and take part in the program. At these entertainments Roman menus are used and care is taken to preserve Roman customs, all of which add to their attractiveness. Initiation this year was carried out from the journeys of Aeneas. The candidate went through burning Troy, the river Styx, the Elysian Fields, and Hades, then under the yoke into submission to the club.

Vermont

Brattleboro.—The Latin classes of the Brattleboro High School had their "annual frolic" Friday, May 11, in Festival Hall this year. The hall was transformed into a Circus Maximus and public games were held, not only *Ludi Circenses* and *Munera Gladiatoria*, but also *Ludi Scenici* and *Ludi Amphitheatri*. These games were in celebration of the *Lemuralia*, which the ancient Romans held annually on May 9, 11, and 13, to appease the souls of the departed.

Four drivers with four horses each in a chariot race were one of the attractions; also two gladiatorial combats, a wrestling bout, a boxing match, and a

venatio, or wild beast hunt, the delight of the Roman populace, were presented.

This program was under the direction of Miss Florence C. Allen, teacher of Latin in the high school. Her work is an inspiration to Vermont classical teachers. The matter referred to above is only a sample of what she has been doing annually for many years.

Washington

Spokane.—On the “ides of March” a program of plays was given by the Aeneadae, the Latin club of the Ogden High School. Several weeks before the event the town had been liberally sprinkled with posters with the warning to “Beware the ides of March,” and, despite two counter-attractions on the same evening, a large crowd gathered in the high-school auditorium to witness the event. The program consisted of an adaptation of Miss Paxon’s *A Roman Wedding*, the Vestal Virgin Drill, and *The Lamentable Tragedy of Julius Caesar, in Song and Verse*. A male quartette sang “Integer Vitae” before the curtain rose.

The program was a success, as many who came to scoff remained to praise, and enthusiastic applause greeted each number. It occasioned much amusement when the “mustaceum,” which it had been announced was made by a recipe of Cato’s, two thousand years old, proved extremely difficult to cut. Some of the audience suggested that the cake was two thousand years old.

The scene of *A Roman Wedding* was made to represent as nearly as possible the atrium of a Roman house with a fountain playing in the center, an altar at one side, and statuary and Roman furniture around the room.

The *Tragedy* was particularly well received. It is an extremely humorous burlesque on Shakespeare’s play, set to well-known and “catchy” tunes, and many of the songs were sung around school for days after the performance. When, during the funeral oration by Mark Antony, the statue of Pompey burst into tears, it “brought down the house.”

The costumes for all the events were made in the sewing department, and all the furniture and the fasces carried by the lictors, in the manual-training rooms. The fasces, gilded and wound with purple ribbon, make a splendid decoration for the walls of the Latin room.

The program was produced under the direction of Mr. Edgar G. Johnston, of the Latin department, assisted by Mrs. Newcombe, of the English department, and Miss Hess, of the German department.